

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09434

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TSPA, UN
SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE: WESTERN EUROPEAN CONSULTATIONS
ON DIRECT SATELLITE BROADCASTING (DBS)

1. US REPS STOWE (L/UNA) AND SCHAEFER (OTP) MET WITH AUSTRALIAN, AUSTRIAN, BELGIAN, CANADIAN, FRG, FRENCH, ITALIAN, JAPANESE, SWEDISH AND UK DELEGATIONS AT FCO IN ATTEMPT TO COORDINATE A COMMON WESTERN POSITION ON DBS FOR JUNE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE SESSION. NO COMMON TEXT WAS DEVELOPED, BUT THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT PARTICIPANTS WOULD COORDINATE TO PROTECT THE PRINCIPLE OF FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION.

2. DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON DRAFT PRINCIPLE ON "CONSULTATION AND AGREEMENTS AMONG STATES" FOUND IN 1977 LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT. GENERAL REACTION AMONG OTHERS WAS SUPPORT FOR MODIFICATIONS PROPOSED BY UK AIDE MEMOIRE (TEXT CONTAINED USUN 1608). UK REP SUGGESTED, AS A TACTICAL MOVE, THAT THE INITIAL WESTERN POSITION SHOULD BE TO REITERATE THAT IN LIGHT OF WARC 77 NO PRINCIPLE ON PRIOR CONSENT SUBJECT IS NOW REQUIRED. ALL PRESENT AGREED THAT THIS APPROACH WOULD NOT BE PERSUASIVE TO
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OTHERS, BUT WE STRONGLY ARGUED THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE DRAWN INTO A DRAFTING EXERCISE ABSENT EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIETS AND OTHER DEFENDERS OF PRIOR CONSENT WERE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN A COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT. OUR VIEW ON THIS POINT WAS GENERALLY SUPPORTED, WITH THE CAUTIONARY NOTE REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED THAT WE MUST TAKE CARE NOT TO APPEAR COMPLETELY INTRANSIGENT. IN THE LATTER CASE WE

WOULD RISK A REVERSION TO THE LESS ACCEPTABLE 1976 LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE TEXTS ON UNLAWFUL BROADCASTS, PROGRAM CONTEXT, AND DUTY AND RIGHT TO CONSULT.

3. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT SOVIET AND LDC WILLINGNESS TO WORK FOR A GENUINE COMPROMISE SHOULD BE DETERMINED BEFORE THE WESTERN COUNTRIES MAKE ANY FURTHER INITIATIVE. WE WERE ASKED WHETHER THE US HAD CONSULTED RECENTLY WITH THE SOVIETS, AND IN RESPONSE WE INDICATED THAT WE HAD PREFERRED TO CHECK ON THE VIEW OF OUR WESTERN COLLEAGUES FIRST. WE INDICATED THAT WE WOULD BE TRYING TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE SOVIETS WERE WILLING TO SETTLE ON A COMPROMISE, AND THAT WE WOULD INFORM THE WESTERN GROUP IN VIENNA OF OUR IMPRESSIONS.

4. EXTENSIVE AND DETAILED EXAMINATION OF EACH SENTENCE IN THE DRAFT PRINCIPLE AND PREAMBLE REVEALED INITIAL SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN INTERPRETATION EVEN AMONG WESTERN GROUP. HOWEVER, CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS NARROWED SOME DIFFERENCES, HIGHLIGHTED STRONG OPPOSITION TO SCOPE OF 1976 "DUTY AND RIGHT TO CONSULTATION" PRINCIPLE, AND EVINced CONTINUING CONFUSION ABOUT HOW TO SEPARATE SIGNIFICANCE OF ITU RULES RESULTING FROM 1977 WARC FROM POLITICAL PRINCIPLES IN THE OSC.

5. UK REP PLANS TO RECONVENE WESTERN GROUP EARLY DURING VIENNA MEETING FOR FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO COORDINATE A COMMON POSITION. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THIS EXCHANGE WAS QUITE INFORMATIVE AND USEFUL TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT PRINCIPAL US ROLE WAS TO SERVE AS A RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON MANY WHO AT FIRST SEEMED PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH FINDING A FORMULA THE SOVIETS COULD ACCEPT. END COMMENT.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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